

From: kale Pastel [mailto:kalesmailbox@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 13, 2008 9:32 AM

To: MLPAComments

Subject: North Coast MPAs

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to the implementation of MPAs on the north coast. I would just like to voice my concerns and opinions as a diver, a taxpayer and a Californian. I understand that there is a group of stakeholders that has been working on the drawing up of these areas, none of which were no spearfishing/ abalone diving divers.

Anyone who has been to the north coast between Jenner and Fort Bragg on a weekend can tell you that abalone diving is probably the biggest draw of this area, and 98% of the divers up there are diving for abalone and/or spearfishing. The economic benefits that the area sees from divers is huge.

The vast majority of divers are diving from shore. Many shore access points have been being used for decades to sustainably harvest abalone and fish from the sea. Salt Point State Park, Fort Ross and the Sea Ranch are places in Sonoma County that I beg remain open to the shore diving public. There is not a lot of access in Sonoma County, but there are a lot of divers. Sea Ranch has very limited access already and most of the people paying the parking fee are divers. There are also vast areas of land that are privately owned and do not allow public access already. Closing inaccessible areas would not create heavier diving pressure in other areas.

If Mpa's were to be put in these accessible and heavily dove areas, I would ask that they remain open for abalone diving and spearfishing.

In light of the history, tradition, economic impact, selectivity and low impact of abalone and spearfishing divers I ask that you leave those access points open for our continued use and enjoyment and the benefit of the area.

Respectfully,

Kale Pastel